

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O 050010Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2782
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03112

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: ARAB GROUP DELEGATION REQUESTS
US PRESSURE ON ISRAEL RE KAWKABA SITUATION

1. SUMMARY. REPS OF SYRIA, LEBANON AND KUWAIT CALLED ON AMB YOUNG AUGUST 4 ON BEHALF OF ARAB GROUP TO URGE US PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO PERMIT LEBANESE ARMY TO MOVE TO TIBNIN. THEY NOTED SECRETARY VANCE ABOUT TO DEPART FOR ISRAEL AND SUGGESTED THIS BE USED AS LEVERAGE WITH ISRAEL SINCE OTHERWISE SECRETARY WOULD HAVE TO SPEND HIS TIME IN ISRAEL DEALING WITH KAWKABA PROBLEM. ARABS ARE NOT ANXIOUS TO GO TO SC BUT ARE LEAVING THAT OPTION OPEN AS LAST RESORT. END SUMMARY.

2. DELEGATION REPRESENTING ARAB GROUP, CONSISTING OF
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SYRIAN AMB AL-CHOUFI, LEBANESE AMB TUENI AND KUWAITI CHARGE EL-JEAAN, CALLED ON AMB YOUNG AT 5:00 P.M. AUG 4 TO DISCUSS SITUATION AT KAWKABA WHERE LEBANESE ARMY UNIT HALTED BY HADDAD FORCES ENROUTE TO DESTINATION AT TIBNIN. ALSO PRESENT WERE AMB MCHENRY, POLMIN AND MISOFF.

3. AL-CHOUFI SAID ARAB GROUP HAD DISCUSSED SITUATION IN LEBANON AUG 3 AND DEL HAD COME ON BEHALF OF GROUP TO ASK US AS PERMANENT SC MEMBER AND AS ONLY ONE WITH INFLUENCE WITH ISRAEL TO USE INFLUENCE - PRESSURE - TO PERSUADE ISRAEL TO PERMIT LAF UNIT TO PROCEED. GROUP IS CONCERNED THAT IF ISRAEL PERSISTS IN PREVENTING LAF FROM MOVING INTO SOUTH LEBANON, SITUATION COULD GET OUT OF CONTROL, NOT ONLY IN LEBANON BUT IN WHOLE AREA. HE ASSERTED US HAS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS REGARD AND HE HOPED WE COULD PERSUADE ISRAEL.

4. TUENI FOUND SITUATION REGRETTABLE AND MOST PECULIAR, IN THAT FOREIGN GOVT WAS HOLDING UP MOVEMENT ON QUESTION OF STATUS OF HADDAD, WHICH IS LEBANESE MATTER. HE NOTED LEBANESE ARMY WAS LATE IN MOVING SOUTH, BUT NOW THAT DECISION TAKEN, WITH EVERYONE'S ENCOURAGEMENT, IT WAS MOST UNFORTUNATE SITUATION HAD DEVELOPED AS IT HAD. HE ALSO NOTED SECRETARY'S IMMINENT DEPARTURE AND CONNECTED THIS WITH NEED FOR FURTHER DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WITH ISRAEL. HE SAID GOL ATTACHES TREMENDOUS IMPORTANCE TO LEBANESE ARMY BEING ABLE TO TAKE UP POSITIONS IN SOUTH, AS THIS WOULD HELP RESTORE CONFIDENCE AND AUTHORITY.

5. TUENI SAID KUWAIT, AS SC MEMBER, HAD TAKEN SOUNDINGS AND CONCLUSION WAS THAT "NO ONE IS ANXIOUS TO GO TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SC" AND ARAB GROUP BELIEVES QUESTION CAN BE HANDLED OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL. THEY LOOKED TO US AS AUTHOR OF RES 425 AND IN LIGHT OF WEIGHT OF INFLUENCE AND ROLE IN PEACE EFFORTS TO CONVINCE ISRAEL THAT LAF UNIT MUST BE PERMITTED TO PROCEED.

6. EL-JEAAN EMPHASIZED THAT SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF LEBANESE ARMY UNIT IN ESTABLISHING GOL AUTHORITY IN THE SOUTH IS CRUCIAL. ALL ARABS WERE VERY CONCERNED AT POSSIBILITY OF FAILURE. HE REPEATED THAT SC OPTION WAS LEFT OPEN BUT AS LAST RESORT. HE NOTED SECRETARY'S TRIP TO ISRAEL AND THOUGHT IT WAS DESIRABLE TO CLEAR THIS SITUATION UP BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL, "OTHERWISE THERE WILL BE NOTHING ELSE TO DISCUSS."

7. AMB YOUNG NOTED IT WAS DIFFICULT TO KEEP UP WITH EVENTS IN THE AREA AND THE MANY MEETINGS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE. THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT SITUATION, WHICH ALL AGREED SEEMED NOW TO BE GENERALLY QUIET. HOWEVER, APPARENTLY THE AUG 4 MEETING BETWEEN HADDAD/IDF AND UNIFIL HAD NOT MOVED SITUATION FORWARD. TUENI NOTED THERE SEEMED TO BE TWO

LEVELS: AT BEGIN/WEIZMAN-WALDHEIM LEVEL, BEGIN'S REPLY TO SYG HE UNDERSTOOD HAD BEEN GENERALLY POSITIVE. (URQUHART HAS CONFIRMED THIS TO USUN.) BUT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL THERE WERE CONTINUED DIFFICULTIES. YOUNG COMMENTED THAT LAF WAS REPORTEDLY PREPARED TO SIT TIGHT WHILE NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED AND THOUGHT THIS WAS GOOD. TUENI SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS A LIMIT TO HOW LONG THIS COULD GO ON. HE HAD BEEN TOLD THEY WERE ALSO PREPARED TO SHOOT THEIR WAY THROUGH.

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8. TUENI WISHED TO POINT OUT THAT IT WAS GOL VIEW THAT MAJ. HADDAD IS AN ISRAELI HOSTAGE. HE SAID LEBANESE OFFICERS SENT TO SEE HIM WERE NEVER ABLE TO TALK TO HIM WITHOUT ISRAELIS ALSO BEING PRESENT. MOREOVER, ISRAELI OFFICERS HAD CALLED OFFICERS WITH LEBANESE TROOPS IN AND ORDERED THEM TO LEAVE THE AREA. SUCH BEHAVIOR INSIDE LEBANESE TERRITORY AND IN UNIFIL'S AREA OF OPERATIONS WAS INCREDIBLE.

9. AMB YOUNG ASSURED THE DELEGATION THAT "WE ARE WORKING ON THIS FULL TIME, BOTH IN LEBANON AND ISRAEL." HE AGREED SECRETARY VANCE WOULD INDEED WANT TO GET TO

THE BUSINESS OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND WOULD NOT
LIKE TO HAVE THIS SITUATION DOMINATE HIS VISIT TO
ISRAEL. HE SAID HE WOULD REPORT THE APPROACH TO
WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY.
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10. EXPRESSING HOPE THAT US EFFORTS WOULD SUCCEED,
SINCE LAF LOCATION IN SOUTH WOULD REBUILD PRESTIGE,
AL-CHOUFI SAID IT WAS THE ARAB GROUP'S OPINION THAT US
PRESSURE ON ISRAEL WAS THE ONLY HOPE. HE EXPRESSED
APPRECIATION FOR OUR EFFORTS.

11. COMMENT. APPROACH WAS VERY FRIENDLY, MODERATE
AND UNEMOTIONAL. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS CLEAR THAT ARABS
DO BELIEVE THAT THE US HAS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO
BRING ISRAEL AROUND AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE CON-
VINCED WE HAD DONE OUR BEST IF WE DO NOT SUCCEED.
YOUNG

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